

## UHP encouraging Utah County drivers to slow down

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By Sam Penrod

UTAH COUNTY -- Significant changes are now in place along Interstate 15 in Utah County. There are lane shifts, even narrower lanes and a lower speed limit from Lehi all the way to Spanish Fork.

"You have to slow down. For one, it's dangerous," Utah Highway Patrol Trooper Jared Clanton told KSL News during a ride-along through the construction zone.



Map of the I-15 CORE project. Click here for interactive map

The speed limit is now 55 miles per hour, but troopers say many drivers aren't slowing down. That not only endangers construction workers, but anyone on the freeway.

"This morning, within about 45 minutes, I stopped three vehicles at over 85 mph in a 55 [mph zone], and people are just in a hurry," Clanton said.

Regardless of the excuse, troopers say speeders will be cited, and fines are doubled because it is in a construction zone.

"At one point you were at 79 mph, and you passed 55 mph signs twice," Clanton told one driver.

Troopers advise everyone to plan ahead for their trips.

"Make sure you are leaving early so you're not feeling rushed," Clanton said. "That seems to be one of the things we see, especially with speeders."

With long stretches of the freeway now lined with cement barriers and no shoulders, construction crews are actually providing courtesy vehicles to help motorists if they break down. The drivers of the vehicles patrol the construction zone and help to fix flat tires and provide flashing lights.

Troopers say they are there to help too and hope people will drive more carefully, in a stretch of freeway that is now much more complicated.

Construction work this weekend will involve several lane closures and an overnight closure near Spanish Fork. [CLICK HERE for more details on the closures]

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